









## Announcements.

## NOTICE.

## A. S. WATSON &amp; CO., LTD.

HAVE JUST RECEIVED THEIR ANNUAL SUPPLY

LAWN GRASS SEED

and

SWEET CORN,

for immediate sowing.

THE HONGKONG DISPENSARY  
Hongkong, 2nd March, 1888.

For Hongkong Telegraph

HONGKONG, WEDNESDAY, MARCH 7, 1888.

## TELEGRAMS.

(Reuter.)

## THE SITUATION IN EUROPE

LONDON, March 5th.

It is expected that the Russian proposals will end without result, and in the meanwhile Warsaw is being largely virtualized.

## MORE FIGHTING IN SUKIN.

More fighting has taken place at Sukin and the enemy has again retired.

(From Straits Times.)

## THE BULGARIAN QUESTION.

CONSTANTINOPLE, February 27th.

The Russian Ambassador (M. de Néidoff) has formally invited the Porte to declare Prince Ferdinand's rule illegal.

The invitation is endorsed by Herr von Radewitz and the Comte de Montebello.

## THE SUEZ CANAL.

LONDON, February 27th.

England and France are exchanging views regarding the amendments to the Suez Canal convention proposed by the Porte.

## RUSSIA AND TURKEY.

CONSTANTINOPLE, February 28th.

It is not expected that the Porte will comply with the Russian invitation, but that it will temporize. The other Ambassadors remain aloof.

## LOCAL AND GENERAL.

H.M.S. *Linnæ* left Shanghai for the South of the 3rd inst.

An agricultural Congress will be held at Manila in April next.

The Governor of Macao and suite returned to Singapore from Bangkok on the 26th ult. His Excellency was to proceed to Timor by the first opportunity.

We are informed by the General Managers (Messrs. Jardine, Matheson & Co.) that the Indo-China Steam Navigation Co.'s steamer *Kutsang*, from Calcutta, left Singapore for Hongkong this afternoon.The Tientsin correspondent of the Shanghai *Mercury* learns that Li Hung-chang is at present in feeble health. It is rumoured that the great Viceroy's indisposition is owing to worries in connection with the Yellow River inundations.

With an admirably drilled army of 100,000 men on a peace footing, a navy to which constant additions are being made, mostly from British ship-yards, and her forty-nine fertile provinces now linked by railways, Spain—in the Elizabethan age England's greatest rival—seems to be resuming her position as a great Continental Power.

GOVERNOR DES VOUEUX left for Singapore to-day by the Messageries Maritimes steamer *Saghalien* on a short leave of absence. His Excellency embarked on the Government steam launch at Murray Pier, where a number of leading officials had assembled to bid him 'good bye,' shortly after 11.30, and proceeded on board the mail steamer, the Wellington battery firing a salute as the launch left the wharf. Lady Des Voeux is a passenger for Hongkong by the P. and O. Co.'s steamer *Kaiser-i-Hind*, and His Excellency will return to Hongkong by that vessel.

This Chinese Times says that the stocks of Kaiping coal in Tientsin have run short, and fears are expressed that if the river opens late the community will be put to serious straits for want of fuel. The railway, when completed will no doubt cheapen the cost, as well as give a regular and unfailing supply. The charge for coal in household accounts is a very serious item of expense, particularly as owing to the deprivations of servants one-ton in Tientsin does not last as long as ten hundred weight does in England.

The *Courier d'Haiphong* informs us that the Governor-General of French Indo-China has entered into an agreement with Messrs. Marty and d'Abbadie for the extension of their line of river steamers and for the transport of troops and commissariat stores. There will be six trips each week from Haiphong to Hanoi, and three from Hanoi to Phu-lanh-thuong; three from the Seven Pagodas to Dap-cau; three from Hung-yen to Nam-dinh; three from Hanoi to Bac-hat; one from Bac-hat to Cho-bo; one from Bac-hat to Tuyen-quan; one from Bac-hat to Tan-quan; one from Nam-dinh to Vinh. A subsidy will be granted to Messrs. Marty and d'Abbadie of 350,000 francs per annum.THE P. M. S. S. Co.'s steamer *City of New York*, with mails, &c., from San Francisco, has arrived at Yokohama, and left for Hongkong this morning.A TELEGRAM dated the 26th ult. reports that the French steamer *Suez* had foundered off Lisbon, only twelve people being saved. The *Suez* was a steamer of 1,387 tons net, built at Newcastle in 1879, and belonging to Messrs. D'Oreilly et Sanstia Fil.

THAT one man's ruin may be another's gain, remarks our Tientsin contemporary, is exemplified by the fact that the Shantung agriculturists, since the break of the Yellow River bank near Kaileng-fu, have had their grounds cleared of water, and on some farms that had been under water and unfit for any sort of cultivation for four or five years past, the farmers actually sowed seed in the late autumn, and expect good crops in the spring.

THE *Independents* reports a murder committed in Macao on Saturday last under the following circumstances: A Chinese policeman named Pouseng, after engaging in a dispute with a group of Celestials in a bachelors' house, was entering a native shop, when a revolver shot was fired at him by some one. The whole group then followed him to the shop. The bullet took deadly effect on the constable. A Chinese was subsequently arrested, and a revolver with two exploded chambers was found in his possession.

THE most uproarious political meeting ever held in Dundee is stated to have taken place on the 31st January when General Daly, the Unionist and Conservative candidate, appeared to open his campaign. Upwards of an hour before the opening of the meeting a large crowd forced its way into the hall, and when the General and his friends appeared on the platform the building was packed by upwards of 3,000 people, numbers of whom indulged in all kinds of uproar and noise. The uproar continuing, General Daly abruptly concluded by wishing his audience "Good-bye." Many seats in the hall were smashed.

THE *Punch* Echo of the February 25th says:—The report given by native papers that the losses of the Fopchow fishermen during last season amounted to \$300,000, cannot be true, for if such were the case, we fear there would be no native fishermen left for the coming season. When a Chinaman says that he has lost the above mentioned, or any other amount, we must understand that he means he could not squeeze that amount from us. We doubt not that some of our native fishermen did suffer severe loss, but to such an alarming amount is next to impossible. The actual loss, we are given to understand, does not exceed \$50,000, and this amount is shared by a few fishermen, while many, as usual, made their fortune.

PURSUANT to the Circular issued to-day by the Clerk of Councils, a meeting of the Executive Council was held to-day at 4 p.m., when the Hon. F. Stewart, Colonial Secretary, took the oath as Officer Administering the Government in the absence of His Excellency the Governor. There were present in the Council Room: General Cameron, Mr. J. Russell, Acting Chief Justice, Mr. E. I. O'Malley, Attorney General, Mr. A. Lister, Colonial Treasurer, Capt. H. G. Thomson, R.N., Harbour Master, Mr. J. M. Price, Surveyor-General, Capt. W. M. Deane, Superintendent of Police, Messrs. C. P. Chapple, A. P. McEwen, and Wong Shing (unofficial members). The Clerk of Councils read the Royal Commission empowering the Colonial Secretary to administer the Government in the absence of the Governor, after which he was duly sworn, and the meeting then dispersed.

SAYS the *Comerco*:—"The Italian Opera Company who are at present performing at the Tondo Theatre in Manila, are complaining of the great number of persons who invade the *sancta* behind the curtain. The visitors to the stage and its approaches are said to be so numerous as to seriously interfere with the scene shifting and other stage arrangements." It appears that all foreign companies are more or less subject to these stage intrusions. In Manila, a practice which is ridiculously carried out throughout the Continental theatres in Europe, to the great annoyance of actors and actresses. We remember the troubles an English company had some time since in Manila, which arose out of the persistence of one of the local authorities in visiting a certain actress. The same sort of annoyance is evidently being given the Italian Opera singers.

THIS morning a coiffe aged 28 was charged with kidnapping a boy of 16 years of age who was living in Hongkong with his mother, and that on the 5th inst. while he was playing on the Chinese recreation ground the prisoner accosted him and put seven cents into his hand, observing that the money was for the purpose of buying some food for himself. I went away, said complainant, and the prisoner followed me, subsequently taking me to a house, and on getting inside he said he was going to sell me. He said after I was sold I should be in a position to make money and could then give him some of it. The following day, after keeping me all night in the house, he gave me some cash and told me to go but take a walk, he keeping behind me. This morning my mother came to the house with the police and found me. A Chinese constable said he went to a certain house in the native quarter and found the prisoner, the complainant, and another boy of about the same age. The mother went with him and on finding her son began to cry, imploring the "high binder" to release her son. Defendant said, "all right, if he is your son take him away." Witness then arrested the defendant. Addressing the bench the accused said the reason he took the boy was because a coolie had told him the lad was destitute and asked him to feed him. For this piece of unselfish humanity Mr. Wise committed the prisoner—who admitted to four previous convictions—to prison with hard labour for six months. Another Chinaman, a coolie, got six months for a similar offence.

A Government Gazette Extraordinary, issued this afternoon, notifies that the Hon. Frederick Stewart, Colonial Secretary, will administer the Government during the temporary absence of His Excellency the Governor.

COMPARING the relative cost and strength of the French and Italian Navies, a Paris Journalist, M. Lérins, states that the latter Power is both numerically superior and of heavier armament to the floating force of his own country. This state of inferiority the writer declares to be equally perilous and shameful, and he personally adjusts the French Minister of Marine, by name, to give immediate orders for the reinforcement of the Toulon Squadron to the same number as possessed by Italy, within the next three months.

JOHN O'KEEFE, John Thomson, and Richard Russell, three seamen all described on the Police sheets as Irishmen, were this morning charged by Mr. Moir, superintendent of the Sailor's Home, with being constantly drunk and disorderly. They had been two months in the Home and were, said the complainant, "never sober." Last night they made a great noise and disturbance in one of the rooms of the institution for which the present charge was preferred. The accused had no defence, apology, nor questions of any kind, and were sentenced by Mr. Wise, the first to ten days in gaol, and the other two to four days, with hard labour.

SAYS the *Chinese Times*:—"The authorities have apparently made fairly adequate arrangements for relieving the destitute poor in the townships and villages around Tientsin, as the influx of refugees has been reduced to manageable dimensions. The public kitchens give out very great quantities of wholesome and nourishing, if coarse, food daily, and on the thick gruel made from millet the recipients can sustain not only life but strength also. There was some rumour that public works were to be ordered on a large scale in the Spring for the repair of the Peiho and other river banks, and if these works are made, there will be employment during the Summer and Autumn for some thousands of labourers. The fluvial system of Chihli is in a bad condition, and although the damage done is less than that of the Yellow River flood, it is yet very great. The injury done in the Viceroy Li's government by overflow must amount to many millions of taels in the last year alone, and since 1881 there have been an almost regular yearly succession of inundations.WHAT can be the matter with the Editor of the *Daily Press*? And where were the talented and experienced at it? The *Press* actually publishes this morning a telegram, stating that Mr. Firth, the Home Rule candidate, has been defeated at the Dundee election for a member of Parliament to take Mr. Lucraft's seat, by General Daly, a Unionist Tory, by a majority of 3,600 votes. Does the Archdeacon lever of Upper Wyndham Street know where Bonnie Dundee is, and what it is? Evidently not, or he would scarcely have made such a glaring blunder. Dundee is one of the leading Radical strongholds in Scotland, and with its large Irish population is thoroughly in favor of Home Rule. Is this the place, does our contemporary imagine, where a Tory like General Daly would have the slightest chance of election? In another part of this issue will be found a short paragraph giving an account of General Daly's reception by the Dundee electors; perhaps that will convince the *Daily Press*. The real truth is, as our contemporary ought to have known, that Mr. Firth, the Radical, has been elected by the vast majority of 3,600. Again, the *Daily Press* announces that Mr. Biddall, a Conservative, has been elected for West Southwark, beating his Home Rule opponent, Mr. R. K. Causton, by 1,000 votes. This is an equally lamentable display of editorial ignorance. Southwark is about the most Radical borough in all England, and the Home-Rule sympathies of its electors are well known. Of course Mr. Causton was elected, the other man being nowhere. Will our contemporary further enlighten us as to what possible connection there can be between the elevation to the Peerage of Sir Henry Holland and the re-election of Mr. Buchanan for Edinburgh West? We are sadly afraid that there is something amiss with the experienced and talented staff.THE most important Macao news of the day being the existing conflict between the Government and the Municipality, as reported in our columns yesterday, the silence kept by the Macao correspondent of our morning contemporary over this subject is especially significant and points a moral. The newspapers published in the Holy City are controlled by superior authority, their freedom being only a sham; whenever any important affair is being discussed in administrative circles, the organs of the press entirely lose their faculty of speech. The *Daily Press* correspondent is evidently a myrmidon of the Macao Government, or a Municipal parasite, and he consequently keeps his own counsel over a matter of such a serious character as the probable dissolution of the Municipal chamber, or what the Macaenese style their *Leal Senado*. We have heard enough of the absurdities and anomalies which are inherent to that fossil institution to lead us to think that its early and final dissolution would greatly tend to enforce and strengthen public order in the Holy City. The *Senado* is supposed to represent the people of Macao; but although would-be representatives may be readily found, where are the people, the merchants, the ship-owners, and the tradesmen who require municipal representation? In a colony where trade is an unknown quantity, where capital is almost exclusively Chinese, where learning is an infinitesimal fraction, and where independence of moral character is an impossibility, municipal institutions are not only useless but may become positively injurious. We are far from being sympathizers with the kind of Government which exists in the neighbouring colony, but we think this measure of dissolving the Corporation will greatly tend to strengthen the administrative authority of the powers that be. A colony without an independent press is unworthy of any privileges, municipal or otherwise.

It is announced that the First Battalion of the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders (91st-93rd) will proceed from Ceylon to Hongkong to relieve the 5th Regiment during the present year.

THE following high appointments in the Chinese Government have been published:—Shih-tsing to be Senior Vice-President of the Board of War; Mcin-l, Junior Vice-President of the Board of War; and Ching-fu, Junior Vice-President of the Mongolia office.

THE *Militar-Wochenblatt* devotes a long article to the military question in Eastern Europe, and states that on the confines of the three Powers the peace strength of the Russians reaches 315,500 men, with 689 guns, and that of the Austrians 38,000 men and 333 guns. On the Russo-German frontier the German forces are 81,714 men, 14,510 horses, and 238 guns; while the Russians have 123,275 men, 24,193 horses, and 274 guns.THE musical reporter of the *China Mail* has made a new discovery. Referring to Monday night's concert at the City Hall, he says:—"As to the programme itself it ought not, strictly speaking, to be criticised at all, in accordance with the conventional mode of dealing with charity concerts, but on this occasion there is some excuse for holding it to be somewhat as it deserves a good deal of praise on its own merits." We don't happen to know who the critical individual may be who wrote this stuff for the *Fish Wrapper*, but we do know that he would have been much better employed in the fish frying line of business than in exposing his childish ignorance and crass stupidity in the columns of what is intended to represent a public newspaper. Who told this know-all that the conventional mode of dealing with Charity Concerts is to exempt them from criticism? What has been the conventional custom of the *China Mail* in such matters? Nine out of every ten concerts given in this colony have been charity concerts, and they have invariably been criticised. Our contemporary, hard up for local matter, has even worked up critiques, or had them worked up by outsiders, of semi-private and religious performances in the Cathedral. And yet we find this booby rapping a profound knowledge of matters critical, and calmly laying it down that entertainments given for charitable purposes ought not to be criticised at all. Were this actually the rule amongst journalists, the Hongkong critics and performers would alike have a very distressing time; but it is not the rule, and never has been. All public performances are open to criticism, no matter for what object they may be given; so long as the public have to pay for admission no other consideration has the least weight. Private entertainments, where admission is by invitation, such for instance as the enjoyable smoking concerts of the Musical Club and the musical evenings at the Club Germania, are, of course, never subjected to public criticism, unless a desire to that effect is specially expressed. We have read the *China Mail*'s notice of the Charity Concert. He ought to write one more of the same sort, and then speedily terminate his useless existence with an overdose of haggis.TALKING about the "after-glow" in Egypt, says a contributor to *Cities of the World*, there is probably no view in the universe to equal that from the Citadel of Cairo; it is splendid by day-light, but is surpassed by the incredible beauty of sunset and the "after-glow," when the crimson haze of the short Egyptian twilight bathes the whole panorama in colours which would be deemed extravagantly improbable if attempted in a painting—colours which neither Hildebrand nor Holman Hunt have been able to depict effectively and naturally. Often as the after-glow has been described, there is probably no better short, graphic description than this:—"With the drawing out of the evening shadows, a glory of colour comes into the light of the setting sun; purple shadows are cast by the mountains; the reds and grays of sandstone, granite and limestone cliffs blend exquisitely with the tawny yellow of the desert, the rich green of the banks, and the bluish-green of old Nile. The cold grey twilight follows immediately upon sunset—but in a few minutes there is a marvellous change, as if nature had fallen under the spell of the magician's wand. [Earth and sky are suddenly suffused with a delicate tinge of pink, known to Egyptian travellers of culture as the magical and fairy-like after-glow, and peculiarly Egyptian over all other sunsets of the world, where those exquisitely beautiful changes of tint and colour return to the fading lights of day after a short interval of ashen-grey, and like the coming back of rosy life to the pale cheeks of a dying beauty. It would appear sometimes as if the rich tints of pink and gold which flood the landscape could be touched, or as Napoleon said when he stood on the ramparts of the citadel viewing this lovely scene,—"you wave a white towel in the air, and it comes down a veritable Joseph's coat of rich colouring." Let the reader stand on that old historic citadel and take in the view. Immediately under his feet Cairo, with its wonderful buildings, its minarets, its squares, its splotchy domes, and its feathery palm-clumps, intermingled with the tombs of the Mamelukes, rounded, "masculine" picturesquely studious the plain. Stretching away till it is lost in the haze of distance is the famous valley of old Egypt, the land of the Pharaohs, through which winds the historic, and stately Nile, going ever onward to the sea, its surface dotted with white wings which flash and glitter in the beams of the setting sun; the great riverine high-way from Central Africa to the ocean, shut in by the high irregular ranges of Libyan and Nubian mountains. Eight or nine miles from our standpoint we behold the great Pyramids of Ghizeh; farther along that still burning plateau of sand are the still older Pyramids of Saklara; and farther still, phantom-like in the red background of that Libyan desert, are the still more hoary and ancient Pyramids of Abouseir. The city and the tombs, the river and the desert, mingling forth life and death in perpetual contrast, and over all the unchangeable blue of the sky diffused in and through the dazzling glory of that Egyptian sunset."

MONSIEUR CONSTANT leek Hanoi on the 21st ultimo for an excursion up the Black River. His first station was Phou-nam, after which he proceeded to Ché-bé. On the return trip he called at Vietry and Sontay, where he inspected the fortifications.

A NUMBER of deaths of Europeans from small-pox are reported from Singapore. Amongst others, Marshall, the well-known jockey, succumbed to the terrible disease. He took ill on the afternoon of Friday, the 24th ult., and died the following morning.

## SUPREME COURT.

IN SUMMARY JURISDICTION.  
(Before Mr. A. J. Leach, Acting-Puisne Judge.)TO KAI v. MOK LAI CHI, \$202.  
The following judgment in this suit was delivered by His Honour Mr. Justice Leach this morning:—

The facts in this case are short and simple:—By Section 2 of the Public Gambling Amendment Ordinance, 1876, the word "gambling" includes amongst others the lottery known as pak-pok-piu. By Section 3, any person who keeps an agency for dealing in such lotteries is to forfeit a sum not exceeding \$200 on conviction. By Section 8 of the same Ordinance, section 17 of Ordinance No. 7 of 1886 is to apply to the "Public Gambling Amendment Ordinance 1876" and in lieu of the words "No. 14 of 1844" in the said section 17 "No. 9 of 1876" is to be substituted. Section 17 of Ordinance No. 7 of 1886 enacts that whenever a fine is imposed on any person resident in any house and not being a householder within the meaning of the ordinance for any violation of (amongst other ordinances) No. 9 of '76, in default of recovery from the actual offender it may be recovered as therein mentioned from the householder. On the 6th September last one Ko Yau Man, residing at No. 314, Queen's Road Central, was convicted of keeping an agency for dealing in Pak-pok-piu lottery tickets in the colony, and was fined \$200. On the same day a warrant to levy the fine by distress and sale of Ko Yau Man's goods and chattels was issued, and the execution thereof, as it transpires in evidence, entrusted to the defendant in this suit, who is the user at the Police Court. The plaintiff in this suit is tenant of the ground-floor of No. 314, Queen's Road Central, and Ko Yau Man is a tailor who occupies the ground floor of the same house, to use chiefly as a sleeping room at a rent of \$2 a month. It is admitted by the defendant, and indeed it could hardly be contested, that the plaintiff was not a "householder" within the meaning of section 2 of Ordinance No. 7 of 1886, and therefore, in case of default in payment of the fine imposed on Ko Yau Man, not within section 7 of the same Ordinance. The remaining portion of the ground floor of No. 314, Queen's Road Central, was occupied thus: the west side of the front room by the plaintiff, who carries on the business of a shoemaker, and the east side of the front room together with the rest of the east side of the ground floor by a tailor named Tang Yu Kai, who is also a sub-tenant of the plaintiff's. On the day the warrant was issued the defendant, accompanied by Ko Yau Man, and a native constable or watchman proceeds to No. 314, Queen's Road Central, and there to take his own evidence, tells the shopmen—the tailors and shoemakers—that Ko Yau Man had been fined \$200 for keeping lottery tickets, and if he could not pay, a distress would be levied, and believing the goods to be Ko Yau Man's he orders the shop to be shut. He makes no enquiries beyond going to Ko Yau Man's room, and notwithstanding the evidence of his own eyes that there were two different trades being followed in the front shop and that one of the shopmen asked if he might be permitted to remove his own goods, proceeds to take possession, having told the shopmen and shoemakers collectively that if the fine was paid the shop would be re-opened, and according to the evidence of the plaintiff (who, however, the defendant positively states, was not present) that if the fine was not paid on the next day the goods would be sold on the day following. The plaintiff thereupon, urged by the tailor, and in order to get his and the tailor's shop re-opened, procures the necessary amount to "cover the fine" and expenses of execution, and the same afternoon pays it into the Magistrate to the defendant's hands, and he now seeks to recover the money that was wrongfully extracted from him by illegal distress. The defence set up is that the payment was voluntary, and some suggestion was made that the plaintiff was implicated with Ko Yau Man, or must have known that the business he carried on was a lottery agency, but the only foundation for such a suggestion I can look at is the fact that, for nearly a year Ko Yau Man slept at No. 314, Queen's Road Central, and no action was taken or prosecution commenced against the plaintiff. For the defence, the Crown Solicitor (who appeared in his official capacity) cited Valpy v. Stanley L. &amp; B. 159, and drew attention to the judgment of Chief Justice Tindal at page 602. The question there was whether a payment made by the plaintiffs was voluntary or under a species of duress; and Chief Justice Tindal says at p. 601, "it seems to me that all the circumstances show that when the assignees made the payment they had just and reasonable ground for apprehending that the sheriff would proceed to a sale that might have operated injuriously to their interests unless the money were paid." The payment therefore was not voluntary, but was made for the purpose of averting a threatened evil. In this case the goods were actually closed—a present and pressing evil—the money paid to avert the threatened evil of a sale of the goods. How can it be said it was paid voluntarily? Nor is there any guidance from which I can gather that the plaintiff, in paying, intended to give up his rights within the rule laid down by Chief Justice Tindal at p. 603, where he states the rule to be that no action will lie where the payment is voluntary with full knowledge of all the circumstances, unless he gives notice at the time of reluctance to the claim. I cannot leave the case without expressing my astonishment that any defence should be persisted in such a case. A gross mistake, to say the least, if not absolute recklessness in the execution of the process of law, had been committed, for which it was only an aggravation to say that the same course had been pursued in a former case. Suspicion was no ground for refusing to refund unless action was taken on that suspicion. The return to the warrant was wrong. The warrant directed the defendant's goods to be distrained—the return is that the goods of the said house (meaning No. 314, Queen's Road Central) were distrained, whereas, in point of fact only the goods on the ground floor were distrained, and these the goods of the plaintiff and the tailor, the actual offender's goods being practically all. It is to be hoped that by drawing attention to these facts greater care will in future be exercised both in the persons entrusted with warrants of distress and in the manner they are executed, and the defendant is lucky to escape with the refund of the money wrongfully obtained under colour of legal process. The judgment is for the plaintiff, \$202 and costs.

## THE HONGKONG HOTEL COMPANY, LIMITED.

The ordinary half-yearly meeting of the above Company, for the purpose of adopting the report and accounts for the six months ended 31st December, 1887, was held this afternoon at the Hotel. There were present:—Mr. D. McCulloch (Chairman), Messrs. W. Parfitt, A. dos Remedios and F. Dodwell (Directors), Mr. R. Lyall (Secretary), and the following shareholders:—J. Campos da Rosa, C. A. Ozorio, A. E. Vaucher, R. Howie, J. H. Cox and E. Jones Hughes. The Secretary having read the notice convening the meeting, the Chairman said:—Gentlemen, The report having been in your hands for some days, with your permission we will take it as read. Some of you may look upon the net result of the past half-year as a poor one, but that was entirely owing to the few transient guests that came here during the first four months, probably caused by travellers being attracted to the London Jubilee celebrations. Since November last the Hotel has been doing an excellent business. The manager assures me that if the new wing had been ready by Christmas the whole of the Hotel up to date would have been full, as he has had many more applications for rooms than the number he has had at his disposal. The work of the new wing has been practically at a standstill since October 3rd, owing to the non-arrival of ironwork from England. This has now been received, and found to be satisfactory. The contractor is now engaged with the last of the ironwork, and will be able to proceed with the remainder of the brickwork. Passengers' luggage lifts (hydraulic) have been ordered from the American Elevator Co., at a cost of about £900, through Messrs. Tulloch &amp; Co., and we have taken advantage of Mr. Palmer's presence in England to request him to inspect the working of these lifts, and he reports most favourably on them, as being far better than any other patent he has seen. At the end of last year we had the roof of the original building examined by our architects and they found white ants in some of the beams, the majority of which have been renewed at a cost of \$750. The balance will be renewed in the slack season when the rooms are empty. With respect to the barmaids, as our action against Messrs. W. R. Loxley &amp; Co. is pending, I cannot add anything to what appears in the report. With regard to the accounts, I may mention that of the sum of \$14,441.80 represented by sundry debtors, \$10,183.57 has been collected to date and that the manager has received instructions to strictly carry out the Company's rule with regard to the payment of local bills and accounts, which will prevent any large amount being overdue to the Company, and will minimize the chance of bad debts. If any shareholder wishes to ask any questions, I shall be too glad to answer them. There being no questions, the Chairman proposed—that the report and accounts be passed. Mr. Jones Hughes seconded, and the motion was carried.

Mr. J. Campos da Rosa proposed, and Mr. J. H. Cox seconded, That Messrs. A. dos Remedios and Jones Hughes, the retiring Directors be re-elected. The motion was carried unanimously.

Mr. A. dos Remedios moved that—Messrs. J. H. Cox and A. E. Vaucher be re-elected Auditors of the Company for the ensuing half-year. Carried.

The Chairman then said that this concluded the business of the meeting. The dividend warrants would be posted to the shareholders on Monday next.

## HONGKONG AND CHINA BAKERY COMPANY, LIMITED.

The following is the report of the general managers to the shareholders, at the sixteenth ordinary general meeting of the Company, to be held on Friday, the 9th March, 1888, at 3 o'clock p.m.:—

The General Managers have the pleasure to submit to the Shareholders the usual Statement of Accounts for the year ending December last. The Net Profit on the Working Account for this year is \$2,638.53, and the balance at Profit and Loss Account is \$3,139.03. The General Managers recommend that a dividend of \$5.00 per share be declared, absorbing \$300,000, and that the balance of \$139.03 be carried to a New Account.

CONSULTING COMMITTEE. Since the last report we have to regret the death of Mr. T. Denning. The other members of the Committee, Messrs. E. L. Vondin, H. Crawford, J. D. Hutchinson, and D. McCulloch, remain in accordance with the Articles of Association, and are eligible for re-election.

AUDITOR. The Accounts have been audited by Mr. A. E. Vaucher, in Mr. E. S. Wheeler's absence. LANT, CRAWFORD &amp; CO., General Managers. Hongkong, 5th March, 1888.

## NEWS BY THE ENGLISH MAIL.

THE P. & O. S. N. Company's steamship *Deccan*, Capt. P. W. Case, with the English mail of the 3rd ult., arrived in harbour yesterday evening. We take the subjoined items from the *London and China Express*:—

The following is from the Indian Budget statement:—"We have to face a permanent deterioration in the account revenue, as a result of the recent convention regarding the collection of the duty in China. The loss in the current year will amount to something between 25,000,000 and 300,000."

The following appointments have been made at the Admiralty:—Assistant Engineer Francis F. West to the *Frigate*, George H. Cooke, chief engineer; to the *Lynx*, on promotion, to date Jan. 10th; Harry H. Meadus, engineer, to the *Imperial*; Robert B. Garde, assistant engineer, to the *Imperial*.

At the usual monthly meeting of the Liverpool Chamber of Commerce, the East India and China trade committee reported they had been considering correspondence from the Foshow Chamber relating to the decay of the Chinese tea trade, and the committee had resolved to recommend the Council of the Chamber to address a letter to the Government requesting that, in revising the treaties with China, attention may be given to the desirability of reducing or abolishing the export duty on tea.

Captain John B. Warren, who has been appointed to the command of the *Albatross*, was midshipman of the *Hogue* at the capture of Bomarsund, and was in the *Daguer* (gunboat) at the bombardment of Sveaborg, receiving the Baltic medal. He also served during the China War, and received the Chinese medal. As commander of the *Swallow* he received the thanks of the Colonial Government at the Cape for assistance rendered in the Expedition for the relief of the Trek Boers, in 1879.

Inquiry is being made at Woodwich relative to the burning of an Armstrong breechloading



